

**MINUTES  
PLANNING BOARD  
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM  
October 20, 2014**

Mr. Thomas Franko called the Regular Meeting of the Planning Board to order at 7:30 P.M.

Adequate notice of the meetings of the Planning Board of the Township of Chatham was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice in the form of a Resolution setting forth the schedule of meetings for the year 2014 and January 2015 was published in the *Chatham Courier* and the *Morris County Daily Record*, a copy was filed with the Municipal Clerk and a copy was placed on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building.

Answering present to the roll call were Mr. Franko, Mr. Hurring, Mrs. Abbott, Mr. Brower, Ms. Hagner, Mrs. Swartz and Mr. Saluzzi. Mr. Ciccarone, Mr. Travisano and Mr. McCaffrey were absent.

Also present were Board Engineer John Ruschke, Township Planner Frank Banisch and Planning Board Attorney Steven Warner, Esq.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Hagner moved to approve the August 18, 2014 minutes. Mr. Hurring seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**2015 Meeting Dates**

Mr. Franko asked the Board to review the draft dates for the 2015 meeting schedule, and said that the resolution setting forth the dates would be approved at the reorganization meeting in January.

**Memorialization**

**Fire Department Monument Sign**

Mr. Franko said that Mr. Warner had prepared a draft resolution for Memorialization of the approval of a sign for the Chatham Township Fire Department. He also said that although the resolution is not required in the case of the Fire Department, the Board has traditionally done such resolutions to formalize their support. Some typographical errors were noted and will be corrected.

Mr. Brower moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Hurring seconded the motion.

**Roll Call:** Mr. Franko, Aye; Mr. Hurring, Aye; Mrs. Swartz, Abstain; Mrs. Abbott, Aye; Mr. Brower, Aye; Mr. Ciccarone, Absent; Ms. Hagner, Aye; Mr. Travisano, Absent; Mr. Saluzzi, Absent; Mr. McCaffrey, Absent.

## **Other Business**

Dot Stillinger, the chairwoman of the Environmental Commission, spoke on behalf of Mr. Travisano. She said that in order for the Township to receive Sustainable Jersey points for the Natural Resources Inventory, a resolution approving said document is necessary. Mr. Warner was asked to prepare the resolution.

## **Discussion**

### **Circulation Plan Element**

Mr. Franko said that the public hearing on the Circulation Plan Element will be held at a meeting in November.

Mrs. Abbott said that while the percentage of children who walk to school has declined since the 1970's, the trend is starting to go back to walking. She also commented on the Safe Routes to School program. Mrs. Abbott further summarized the Complete Streets philosophy, and cited various NJ counties which have adopted this principle. She also said that the resolution for Complete Streets will have language modeled on resolutions passed by other municipalities.

Mr. Banisch suggested that the public hearing be scheduled for the November 17th meeting to allow for adequate notice. He and Mr. Franko recognized those who served on the subcommittee for the updates to the circulation plan.

Mr. Banisch listed the different documents which are included in the Circulation Plan Element which was distributed to the Planning Board. He also said that in the past, circulation plans only focused on automobiles. Mr. Banisch added that people's health would be benefitted by walking places rather than driving. He further noted that the Complete Streets philosophy does not commit a municipality to spend money, but rather says that a municipality will consider certain options as streets are planned.

Mr. Banisch provided an overview of the content of the various components of the plan.

Mr. Ruschke suggested that the heart of the report is contained in a figure showing where sidewalks are proposed to be located, and he suggested that Mr. Banisch review that section with the Board. Mr. Ruschke also asked about some walkways listed as being for County roads, and said that some of the proposed sidewalks would be difficult to install due to the need for easements.

Mrs. Swartz opined that sections of the Master Plan should be general and should not include any specific plans which might not be feasible. Regarding proposed areas for sidewalks, Mr. Brower suggested that those areas that are a priority should be highlighted. He also pointed out some errors in the street inventory. Mrs. Abbott said that the errors can be corrected.

Mrs. Swartz said that she does not see the current draft of the proposed circulation plan as addressing safety as the top priority. Mrs. Abbott addressed having safety issues dealt with by engineers. Mr. Brower addressed the need for lighting on walkways if they are to be used by pedestrians at night. Mr. Franko said that the plan should not be too specific in some details, as some of those details may change over time.

The Planning Board also reviewed the resolution for Complete Streets. Mr. Brower asked about the Township's liability if someone were hurt on a road deemed a safe bike path. Mr. Warner said that the Township Attorney might have an opinion on that.

Mr. Franko opened the floor for public comment.

1. Amanda Feeman, 233 Shunpike Road, said that she would not have moved to Chatham Township if she had been unable to walk into town or to walk her children to school. Additionally, Mrs. Feeman said that her father is a quadriplegic, and she is familiar with safe-mobility issues. She also said that in her opinion, Complete Streets is about accessibility for all individuals. Mrs. Feeman also said that the document could also be worded to accomplish certain goals, and it is most important to adopt the philosophy. She also said that specific streets and sidewalks could be discussed as the Township acquires funds to perform said work.

Mr. Ruschke noted that when roads are resurfaced, handicapped accessible ramps are required to be maintained and upgraded as appropriate.

2. Jennifer Mathews, 30 Long Hill Lane, is familiar with the enthusiasm for Walk to School Day at Southern Boulevard School, and said that it is important to be able to walk to school. She also noted the importance of the area in front of the Fairmount Country Store when walking to Esternay Field from her neighborhood. Mrs. Mathews also said that walkability is important for more than just the neighborhoods near the schools. She also said that this sort of planning will add value to the Township, and suggested that the final document include the rationale for the philosophy so that future generations will know why the plan was developed.
3. Jean Earle, 37 Rose Terrace, said that her daughter has disabilities and will not drive. She stressed the need for connectivity. Mrs. Earle added that her daughter was once hit by a car while on the sidewalk, and that sidewalks are not the sole answer for safe routes.

Seeing no further comment, Mr. Franko closed the public comment session.

Mr. Franko announced that this topic will be further discussed at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Ms. Hagner moved to adjourn at 9:30 PM. Mr. Hurring seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte  
Planning Board Recording Secretary